

FEBRUARY 1896.

THE RIVER.
The following figures were taken from the fixed tide gauge, in the river opposite the Harbour Master's Office, where the readings are taken and registered every two hours night and day (we do not mean that these figures show the depth of the river at any time, but that they simply record its rise and fall from the gauge fixed to the Bunding). The strength of the current is determined by the usual, though old-fashioned, reel log and sand-glass, from a boat anchored in mid-stream.

Year.	Month.	Highest.	Lowest.
1891, August.		10 4	3 8
1892, September.		15 5	3 3
1893, July.		15 5	3 3
1894, August.		15 10	3 8
1895, September.		13 4	4 1
1896, August 14th.		15 10	4 5

The best of the river in the upper reaches is securing out so rapidly that the water is almost certain to be able to reach the Bund in three or four weeks time; alongside the Bund there is twenty feet of water, whereas a few weeks ago it was around. These events are all welcome.

No accurate information is to hand as to where the river has burst its banks, excepting the right of the Tientsin bend, which has a breach of about three hundred yards, the consequence of the water is pouring into the country and devastating the fine crops for miles. The tug *Pico* and lighter *Shanrock* are safely stowed away in a ditch below the breach, having been driven there by the rush of water. So far no water appears on the plains on this side of the river.

Boats arriving here from Peking and other places north have been kept for 12 days, simply crossing the river where it has held in their course. The low roads in the country round Tientsin and Shan-hai-kuan are flooded and have now become impassable, and no more fears need to be entertained for the crops, as the natural elevation of the land will soon run the water off.

On Sunday last, August 24th, the rainfall in Tientsin registered 2.234 inches.—*Peking and Tientsin Times.*

LADY FREMANTLE'S DOG.

The following extract, a *propos* of Lady Fremantle and her dog, taken from the *Lady's Pictorial*, may interest some of our readers.—The much-travelled dog of a much-travelled mistress is the little aristocrat named *Kow Pow Chin*, but known to his English friends as *Skills*. The wife in which he got the strange name of *Skills* is characteristic of his little life. When Lady Fremantle was with her husband, Admiral the Hon. Sir Edmund Fremantle, on the China station, an officer of the Chinese navy sent one of the most minute specimens of infant fluff in dogdom as a memento to the wife of the English Admiral. The letter which accompanied the tiny stranger on board the flag-ship was a written example of "English as it is spoken," and caused much discussion among the party assembled on deck to give a welcome to *Kow Pow Chin*. "The dog will be able to learn any kind of skill because his father knows all skills," wrote the Chinese doctor, and the expression was so lowly the factor of the captain of the flag-ship that he said at once, "Oh, you must call him *Skills*." There was something in the name which stuck, for though Lady Fremantle called her new pet *Chin*, and for some time would not recognize the appellation of *Skills*, in the end she gave way and adopted the already generally used English term.

Not long after *Skills* came into possession of his English mistress, Sir E. and Lady Fremantle went to stay with the Governor at Singapore and there her tiny pet was the innocent cause of much excitement. The Governor too busy to be able to attend to his guests on board their ship, sent as a representative his A.D.C., who apparently had not the courage to tell the admiral's wife, that her pet could not be sent to the hotel, but came to Government House as she herself was sure to receive. Great, therefore, was the consternation of the Governor when Lady Fremantle appeared with *Skills* in her arms. "Oh, what have you done?" exclaimed the first words to the astonished Lady. "What have I done?" repeated Lady Fremantle in perplexity. "I am not aware of having perpetrated any very serious offence. I only brought my dog to the hotel, as I thought it was a most reasonable request, and being sternly given to understand he was on account to wander abroad during his stay. That night there was a large dinner-party to welcome Sir E. and Lady Fremantle to the station. As the latter was crossing the hall to the dining-room on the arm of her host, what should she see peeping at her from behind a door? It was the little *Skills*, who had been hiding in the little living creature as if he were indeed but a Chinese miniature of himself. As an example of ready wit, this has not often been heard, but Lady Fremantle, who had been looking at him with a mechanical dog she had lately seen that he had given the cue to the situation almost before she knew, what she saw. Whether there were any inquiries for the fascinating dog, she knows the company later in the evening the present chronicler does not know. The explanation of his escape was that owing to his size *Skills* had been able to force himself under the partition wall of the bedroom and thus make his way to his beloved mistress.

When the time came for Lady Fremantle to leave Government House for the question arose, how was *Skills* to be conveyed back to the ship without making his presence known? His mistress was again equal to the occasion. A straw hat of the admiral's was placed in a small basket, and in the centre of the hat *Skills* nestled himself up as comfortably as if the natural use of the hat-garment was to make a kennel for a little dog in difficulties. *Skills*, concealed from view by a covering of flowers the pup lay ready, and discreetly passing the time in waiting, he uttered no remonstrance at the unusual mode of his conveyance.

SHIPPING REPORTS.

The British steamer *Myrionides*, from Foochow 23rd August, left weather and N.E. wind to port.

The British steamer *Glennara*, from Liverpool and Singapore 19th August, had moderate breeze and fine weather throughout.

VESSELS PASSED ANKER.

Aug. 4 British str. Baron Ardrossan, McNeill, 2nd 5, from Barry for Batavia.

4 British str. Glenelg, from Liverpool, Young, July 24, from Southampton for Melbourne.

6 British str. Princess Wilhelmina, Turbott, Aug. 5, from Batavia for Amsterdam.

7 British str. Glenelg, from Liverpool, Young, July 24, from Southampton for Melbourne.

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IRON & PERUVIAN BARK BISLERI

(FEBRUARY 1896)

A LIQUOR STOMACHIC RECONSTITUENT, Antilymphatic, having IRON and CHINA for its basis. Recommended by Medical Authorities.

It may be taken by itself or with Pure or Mineral or Soda Water.

FERNET BRANCA

A LIQUOR composed of Vegetable Ingredients. Prevents Indigestion and strongly recommended to people suffering from INTERMITTENT FEVERS or WORMS.

It may be taken by itself or with Pure or Mineral or Soda Water, and with Coffee or Wine.

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150 PIANOS FOR HIRE OR MONTHLY PAYMENTS.

PIANOS REPAIRED EQUAL TO NEW—WORK WARRANTED.

TUNING BY EXPERIENCED MEN ONLY.

SECOND HAND PIANOS CHEAP.

"Popular" and "Crescent" Models \$300, \$350—\$385.

5 & 6 Oct. Pianos \$175—\$225.

ALL GUARANTEED FOR CLIMATE.

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUES FREE.

MUSIC, STRINGS, AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

THE PATENTSHIP heretofore existing under the Firm Name of WARNER, BLODGETT & CO. acquired by limitation on 30th ultimo, Mr. EARLE WALTER BLODGETT retiring and his interest and responsibility ceasing on that date.

The Business will be continued by the remaining Partners, Mr. EDWIN HEATH WARNER and Mr. CHARLES IDELTON BARNES under the Firm Name and Title of WARNER, BARNES & CO. acquired by limitation on 30th ultimo, Mr. EARLE WALTER BLODGETT has been authorized to Sign the Firm.

Manila, 17th August, 1896.

NOTICE

W. E. have this Day opened a branch of our Firm in YOKOHAMA for Business in Raw and Waste Silks, and have authorized Mr. H. BENT to Sign per Procuration.

HERBERT DENT & CO.

Canton, 16th August, 1896.

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